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of the nation the duration of the supply will be brief.

The public has a right, therefore, to demand that this natural asset be used to the greatest advantage of all and that no one be allowed to waste it. Natural gas in each city is a community asset and every consumer has a right to demand that wasteful use shall be prohibited in the interest of the public service. This is particularly important during cold spells in the winter when the supply is insufficient and actual suffering may occur. Clearly, it is not right that any consumer suffer at such times because of the extravagance and waste of other consumers, even though they are willing to pay for the gas wasted. Nor can the citizens justify demands for better service from the public utilities without making provision to correct abuses in their own homes. It must be recognized that the public has been and is to-day just as much a party to the crime of wasting this natural resource as are the companies that produce and market it.

#### SCIENTIFIC LECTURES

UNDER the auspices of the division of geology of Harvard University, Dr. James Mackintosh Bell, former government geologist of New Zealand, will give a series of nine lectures on topics in economic geology. These lectures are given in the Geological Lecture Room, Geological Museum, at 4.30 o'clock, and will be open to the public. The dates and titles are as follows:

January 5. "The Waihi goldfield, New Zealand."

January 7. "The Mount Morgan copper mine, Queensland."

January 9. "The Mount Bischoff tin mine, Tasmania."

January 12. "The Mount Lyell copper mine, Tasmania."

January 14. "The Spassky copper mines, Siberia."

January 16. "The Atbasar copper mines, Siberia."

January 19. "The Sudbury nickel-copper area, Ontario."

January 20. "The Cobalt Silver Camp, Ontario."

January 21. "The Porcupine goldfields, Ontario."

THE following are among the lectures to be given at the Royal Institution: Professor W.

H. Bragg, six lectures adapted to a juvenile auditory on The World of Sound; Sir John Cadman, two lectures on (1) Modern Development of the Miner's Safety Lamp and (2) Petroleum and the War; Professor G. Elliot Smith, three lectures on The Evolution of Man and the Early History of Civilization; Professor Ernest Wilson, two lectures on Magnetic Susceptibility; Professor Arthur Keith, four lectures on British Ethnology: The Invaders of England; Professor A. E. Conrady, two lectures on Recent Progress in Photography; Professor A. H. Smith, two lectures on Illustrations of Ancient Greek and Roman Life in the British Museum; Lieutenant-Colonel E. Gold, two lectures on The Upper Air; Sir F. W. Dyson, Astronomer Royal, three lectures on The Astronomical Evidence bearing on Einstein's Theory of Gravitation; and Sir J. J. Thomson, six lectures on Positive Rays. The Friday evening discourses will begin on Friday, January 16, 1920, at 9 o'clock, when Sir James Dewar will deliver a discourse on Low-temperature Studies. Succeeding discourses will probably be given by Sir C. A. Parsons, Mr. S. G. Brown, Professor W. M. Bayliss, Dr. E. J. Russell, Mr. W. B. Hardy, the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, Professor J. A. Fleming, Mr. E. McCurdy, Sir J. J. Thomson, and others.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

At a meeting of the Société de Pathologie exotique at the Institut Pasteur of Paris, held on December 10, Dr. Simon Flexner of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, in New York, was elected an associate member. Dr. Flexner was also elected to associate membership in the Société Royale des Sciences Médicales et Naturelles of Brussels, at a meeting held on December 1, and to the Société Belge de Biologie of Brussels, at its meeting of December 6. On December 22, Dr. Flexner was made a corresponding member of the Bataafsch Genootschap der Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte of Rotterdam, Holland.

OFFICIAL notice has been issued by the French Academy of Sciences of the award of